



Rain!

Nandini Majumdar

Art: Rafia Bano



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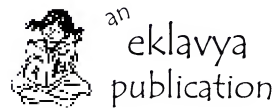




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IT IS HOT.



IT IS



VERY  
HOT.



THE CLOUDS COME!





A BREEZE  
BEGINS.



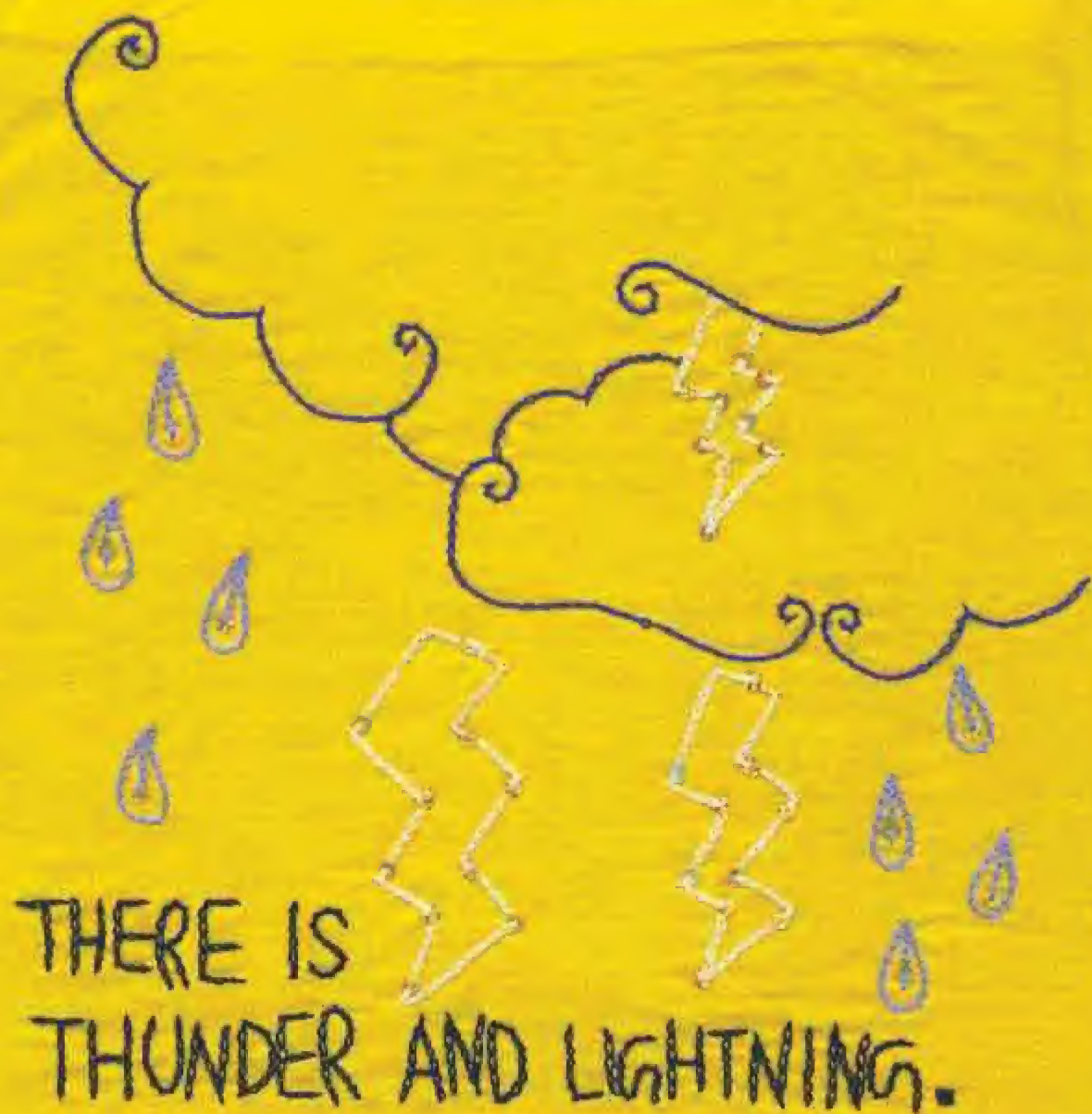


IT RAINS!



IT  
RAINS  
HARDER.





THERE IS  
THUNDER AND LIGHTNING.





WE SLEEP IN THE  
MONSOON BREEZE.

## **Rafia Bano**

Rafia Bano is a young zardozi embroiderer from Varanasi. She comes from a traditional family of weavers. Rafia is about twenty eight years old. She is the sole supporter of her mother. As in all cottage industries, the demand for her work fluctuates. During festival periods, she works from dawn to dusk. During other times of the year, she has no work at all.

She has been working with NIRMAN since 1988. At NIRMAN, Rafia has embroidered cloth storybooks and created other innovative children's products in collaboration with designers. Three of her nephews and nieces attend NIRMAN's school, Vidyashram -The Southpoint School.

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## **About the art**

Zardozi is a special form of embroidery from Banaras (or Varanasi) that uses spangles, beads, and the gold and silver thread called zari. The needle that manipulates the thread is long and sharply hooked at the end.

In the past, real gold, silver, and glass decorated the silk robes and saris of the wealthy. The zari thread was embroidered into floral and geometric patterns that were popular in the Mughal court. Today, plastic beads have replaced glass ones. Modern designs generated on computers supplement traditional designs. The work of zardozi embroiderers such as Rafia travels to showrooms all over the world.

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## **Nandini Majumdar**

Saraswati Nandini Majumdar is a writer and musician. She works for education and the arts, with children, youth, artists, and scholars at NIRMAN ([www.nirman.info/](http://www.nirman.info/)), a non-profit NGO based in Varanasi. Apart from books for children, she has written a book of walks through Varanasi.



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A STITCH,  
A HEM  
AND THE CLOUDS  
GET TRAPPED.

A WAVE OF THE THREAD  
AND THE WIND COMES BLOWING.

A PRICK OF THE NEEDLE  
AND THE CLOUDS  
BURST INTO RAIN.

LET'S GET DRENCHED...



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